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Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01805 042305Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------021696 042307Z /61
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1160
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 01805

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, LE, IS
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM/NEWSOM CONVERSATION ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. IN A MEETING THIS MORNING SYG WALDHEIM AND UNDER-SECRETARY NEWSOM DISCUSSED RECENT EVENTS AND THEIR EFFECT ON UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. UNDER-SECRETARY NEWSOM NOTED THAT THE USG REGRETTED RECENT LOSSES SUFFERED BY UNIFIL FORCES AND WONDERED IF THE LOSSES WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE FURTHER PROGRESS OF UNIFIL. HE ASKED WHETHER FURTHER DIPLOMATIC STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO DISCOURAGE ASSAULTS ON THE UN FORCES. THE SYG, NOTING HIS APPRECIA-TION OF CONTINUED US SUPPORT, STATED THAT THE US INITIA-TIVE TO PROMPT QUICK SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE ORIGI-NAL UNIFIL MANDATE WAS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE ACTION.

2. THE SYG OBSERVED THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE RECENT UNIFIL CASUALTIES IS COMPLEX: ARAFAT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN CONTROL OF THE "LEFTIST" FORCES WHICH INITIATED THE RECENT

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ATTACKS ON THE FRENCH UNIFIL TROOPS. MR. WALDHEIM SAID THAT THE PLO PERM REP HAD RECENTLY COMMUNICATED ARAFAT'S PROMISE THAT HE WILL TRY TO CURTAIL SUCH ATTACKS IN THE FUTURE. WALDHEIM FELT THAT NON-PLO ELEMENTS, PROVOKED BY ARAFAT'S PROMISE TO WALDHEIM THAT THE PLO WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH UNIFIL, HAD INITIATED THE ATTACKS IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR ARAFAT AND THE PLO. AS EVIDENCE,

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WALDHEIM NOTED THAT ONE PLO ESCORT OFFICER WITH THE FRENCH FORCES HAD BEEN KILLED AND ANOTHER PLO ESCORT OFFICER HAD DRIVEN THE WOUNDED COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH UNIFIL CONTINGENT TO THE HOSPITAL. HE FELT THAT POSSIBLY THE IRAQIS, WHO HAVE INFILTRATED PALESTINIAN RANKS IN THE SOUTH, MAY BE BEHIND THIS REJECTIONIST OPERATION.

3. DRAWING UPON HIS RECENT TRIP TO BEIRUT, THE SYG OBSERVED THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS NOT IN CONTROL OF EVEN BEIRUT, MUCH LESS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD TOLD HIM THAT LEBANON WAS UNABLE TO SEND TROOPS SOUTH TO AUGMENT/REPLACE THE UNIFIL FORCES -- IN PART BECAUSE THERE ARE SEVEN DIIFERENT MILITARY FACTIONS BETWEEN BEIRUT AND TYRE. WALDHEIM NOTED THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY 30 LEBANESE GENDARMES IN THE SOUTH. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM UNDER-SECTARTY NEWSOM, WALDHEIM FELT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO HAVE A UN CIVILIAN POLICE FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON., THE MAJOR PROBLEM REMAINS ONE OF GETTING LEBANESE FORCES TO THE SOUTH TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION 425, WHICH CONTAINS LANGUAGE TO "RESTORE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON".

4. UNDER-SECRETARY NEWSOM SAID THE US RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANESE SOIL. HE INFORMED THE SYG THAT IN HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAD TOLD SECRETARY VANCE THAT,
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UPON RETURNING TO ISRAEL, HE WOULD CONSULT WITH HIS CABINET ON SETTING A TIME TABLE FOR A FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

5. REGARDING THE 2,000-MAN AUGMENTATION OF UNIFIL FORCES RECENTLY VOTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SYG WALDHEIM NOTED THAT IRAN, FIJI AND IRELAND HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONTACTED TO SUPPLY THIS ADDITIONAL MANPOWER. HE STRESSED THE URGENT NEED FOR PREFABRICATED BARRACKS AT UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS IN NAQUOURA AND CLAIMED THAT THE EQUIPMENT DOD INITIALLY OFFERED WAS NOT SUITABLE. POLMIN NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UN AND THE USG ON THIS SUBJECT ARE CONTINUING.

6. UNDER-SECRETARY NEWSOM INQUIRED ABOUT PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORTING THE NIGERIAN CONTINGENT TO SOUTHERN LEBANON. SYG WALDHEIM EXPLAINED THAT THE NIGERIANS WANT TO FLY IN NIGERIAN AIRCRAFT WHILE HAVING THE UN ABSORV TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES. HE CLAIMED THE UN COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE THE USG WAS WILLING TO FLY THE NIGERIANS IN FREE OF CHARGE. AMB YOUNG FELT THE NIGERIANS WILL NOT BE WILLING TO FLY IN US AIRCRAFT. HE OBSERVED

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THAT PERM REP HARRIMAN (NIGERIA) DOES NOT SEEM TO WANT THE
NIGERIAN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, BUT THAT THIS
DOES NOT REPRESENT THE VIEW OF LAGOS. YOUNG

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